

The Southern Ute Drum

WINNER OF 13 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS IN 2011

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Ignacio gets egg-cited about Easter hunt



photos Robert Ortiz/SU DRUM

The Easter bunny once again graced the grounds of the SunUte Multi-purpose fields on Saturday, March 31 to the delight of many kids, young and old. The Southern Ute Police Department and a host of volunteers, led by Community Resource Officer Don Folsom held it's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Thousands of eggs were filled with candy and rewards ready to be snatched by kids of all ages. Three age categories with designated areas of the fields were marked off as kids readied themselves to compete with one another to grab as many eggs as they could gather.

Fishing ramps up for season



Fishing and fish were both on the agenda for Thursday, April 12. Select students from the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy helped to stock fish at Scott's pond as part of their ongoing curriculum, Fish in the Classroom, Randy Herrera (above) releases trout using a net. The program was orchestrated by Jon Broholm wildlife technician with the Department of Natural Resources. The students added a total of 300 trout to the recently reconstructed fishing habitat, a local favorite among students. The Casias family made opening day at Lake Capote an all-day outing, sharing in the catch was War Casias, his wife Lori, and their two children, Ethan and Ayden.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM



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Drum brings home 13 SPJ awards

Staff report
The Southern Ute Drum

The Southern Ute Drum made its best showing ever in a journalism contest in April, winning 13 awards — including five first-place prizes — in the Society of Professional Journalists' annual Top of the Rockies. Top of the Rockies is the largest regional journalism competition west of the Mississippi, open to all newspaper, radio and TV outlets in four states: Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico. Last year the Drum won five Top of the Rockies awards: a first place, a second place, and three thirds. This year, the staff nearly tripled its take. Editor Ace Stryker traveled to the Denver Press Club on Friday, April 13 to accept the awards. Composition Technician Robert L. Ortiz won a first-place award for news photography for his coverage of the opening of the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum, and a second-place

award for feature photography. Photographer/reporter Jeremy Wade Shockley won two first-place awards: one for feature photography for his coverage of the Durango & Silverton Narrow

Between Ortiz and Shockley, the Drum swept the news and feature photography categories.

Gauge Railroad's annual Southern Ute Heritage Train, and one for sports photography for his coverage of last summer's Rocky Mountain State Games in Colorado Springs. He also won second and third place in news photography, third place in feature photography, and second place in single-story news reporting for his article on last year's National Congress of American Indians annual convention.

Between Ortiz and Shockley, the Drum swept the news and feature photography categories, which include all newspapers with circulation under 10,000 in the four-state area. Stryker won five awards, including a single-handed sweep of politics general reporting with first, second and third places. Stryker also earned first place for public service for his ongoing coverage of Southern Ute elections, and third place in education general reporting. The Drum has received award certificates that will be framed and added to the trophy case near its office on the west side of the second floor of the Leonard C. Burch Tribal Administration Building. The staff has also submitted entries for the annual Native American Journalists Association competition, the winners of which will be announced later this summer. The latest round of journalism awards brings the Drum's all-time total to 41, including 26 in the past three years alone.